

## Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 MC-02 TRSE-00 AID-20 IGA-02 RSR-01 /105 W  
----- 102676

R 040946 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8610

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 2720

E. O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PK

SUBJECT: NAP LEADER AFZAL KHAN EXPRESSES VIEWS ON  
CURRENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

BEGIN SUMMARY: NAP LEADER AFZAL KHAN BELIEVES COMPRO-  
MISE ON CONSTITUTIONAL DRAFT IS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER,  
HE DOES NOT DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY OF CONFRONTATION  
WITH BHUTTO ON POLITICAL ISSUES IN NWFP AND BALUCHISTAN.  
AFZAL DOES NOT BELIEVE GOVERNOR KHATTAK WILL BE ABLE  
FORM " VIABLE GOVERNMENT". EXCLUDES POSSIBILITY OF  
VIOLENCE FROM NAP QUARTERS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON APRIL 3 MET WITH AFZAL KHAN, FORMER PROVINCIAL  
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND AGRICULTURE AND CLOSE  
COLLABORATOR OF WALI KHAN, TO TALK ABOUT LATEST  
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS.

2. AFZAL INDICATED UDF LEADERS WHO HAD BEEN IN PESHAWAR  
TO REVIEW BHUTTO' S OFFER TO DISCUSS OPPOSITION' S CONSTI-  
TUTIONAL DEMANDS WERE SKEPTICAL ABOUT PRESIDENT' S  
SINCERITY BUT FELT THAT THEY HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT  
TO ACCEPT OFFERED PARLEY. PROPOSED POWERS OF PRIME  
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MINISTER WERE MAIN OBSTACLE PREVENTING OPPOSITION FROM ACCEPTING PRESENT CONSTITUTIONAL DRAFT. CONTROVERSIAL CONCURRENT LIST WHICH HAD NOW BECOME PROVINCE OF SENATE AND TWO- THIRDS REQUIREMENT FOR NON- CONFIDENCE VOTE WHICH HAS BEEN DROPPED BY PPP WERE NO LONGER CONTENTIOUS ISSUES. STILL UNACCEPTABLE, SAID AFZAL, WAS BHUTTO' S INSISTENCE THAT PRIME MINISTER BE INVESTED WITH WIDE APPOINTIVE POWERS. OPPOSITION EQUALLY ADAMANT ON PLACING SUCH POWERS IN HANDS OF PRESIDENT. OPPOSITION INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING GOVERNMENT SYSTEM WHICH WILL SURVIVE BHUTTO AND CONCENTRATING UNCHECKED AUTHORITY TO APPOINT JUDGES, ARMY OFFICERS AND ELECTIVE OFFICIALS IN OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER NOT IN THE INTEREST OF DEMOCRACY.

3. AFZAL SAID HE SAW NO REASON WHY THERE COULD NOT BE AN ACCOMODATION WITH BHUTTO ON CONSTITUTION UNLESS LATTER BENT ON CREATING ONE PARTY STATE. WALI FOR ONE STILL SUSPICIOUS OF PRESIDENT AND PAST EVENTS DID NOT AUGUR WELL FOR FUTURE OF PAKISTAN. NAP WISHED TO LIVE IN PEACE AND BE ALLOWED TO EXERCISE ITS RIGHTS IN TWO PROVINCES OF NWFP AND BALUCHISTAN. IT WAS QUITE EVIDENT, HOWEVER, FROM LATEST MARCH 23 INCIDENT IN RAWALPINDI THAT BHUTTO COULD NOT EVEN TOLERATE A PUBLIC GATTERING HELD TO CRITICIZE HIS AUTHORITARIAN METHODS.<sup>1</sup>

. IN CONNECTION WITH THE RAWALPINDI RIOTS, AFZAL STRESSED NAP' S DETERMINED POLICY NOT TO RETALIATE IN KIND. HE SAID PARTY INFLUENCED BY PEACEFUL METHODS ADOPTED BY THE OLD RED SHIRTS AND WOULD NOT RESORT TO VIOLENCE. MOREOVER, STREET ACTION WOULD BE EXPLOITED BY THE GOVERNMENT AS " FURTHER PROOF" THAT " SECESSIONIST" NAP WAS TRYING TO BREAK UP PAKISTAN. IN THE FACE OF CONTINUOUS PROVOCATION, AFZAL POINTED OUT, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO RESTRAIN THE MORE MILITANT ELEMENTS OF THE PARTY WHICH WERE CLAMORING FOR VENGEANCE AND WANTED TO KILL PUNJABIS LIVING IN THE NWFP.

5. IN REPLY TO MY QUESTION AFZAL SAID HE DID NOT THINK GOVERNOR KHATTAK WOULD BE ABLE TO FORM A " VIABLE GOVERNMENT" ON THE BASIS OF A BARE MAJORITY OF 21 VOTES. THE " MOTLEY CREW" WHICH REPRESENTED THE UF- PML- PPP  
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COALITION, HE SAID, WAS QUARRELLING ABOUT " DIVISION OF SPOILS" AND THERE WERE NOT ENOUGH MINISTERIAL SEATS TO GO AROUND. NAP, HE POINTED OUT, WAS KEEPING THE CURRENT POLITICAL ISSUES IN THE NWFP AND BALUCHISTAN SEPARATE FROM THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION AND ONCE THE LATTER WAS RESOLVED A CONFRONTATION ON THE FORMATION OF GOVERNMENTS IN THE TWO PROVINCES COULD STILL BE POSSIBLE.

6. AFZAL TOUCHED UPON AN OLD THEME BY ASKING ME TO WHAT EXTENT US WAS HELPING BHUTTO. I REPLIED THAT IT WAS PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THAT WE WERE GIVING PAKISTAN CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC AID AND HAD JUST RECENTLY RESUMED DELIVERY OF LIMITED QUANTITIES OF MILITARY SPARE PARTS. HE WENT ON TO SUGGEST THAT SINCE BHUTTO WAS DEPENDENT ON US FOR SO MUCH ASSISTANCE, HE COULD BE INFLUENCED TO ADPT A " MORE DEMOCRATIC COURSE". I SAID IN OUR VIEW BHUTTO WAS ACCOUNTABLE ONLY TO PAKISTANI PEOPLE AND THAT IT WAS US POLICY NOT TO USE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AS A POLITICAL WEAPON TO INFLUENCE DIRECTION OF A NATION'S DOMESTIC POLICY. TO WHICH AFZAL RETORTED THAT WHETHER US LIKED IT OR NOT IT COULD NOT IGNORE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AS A WORLD POWER. THE US, HE SAID HAD A CONSIDERABLE ROLE TO PLAY IN HELPING TO MAINTAIN STABILITY IN THE SUBCONTINENT.  
SOBER

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 DEC 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971119  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PK, PINT  
**To:** KABUL  
KARACHI  
LAHORE  
NEA  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

